



August Newsletter

We are so happy that we have had such a good start to the new session. It has been great to see our pupils and to meet with parents before and after school. We welcome 41 new Primary pupils and their families to St John's as well as a new pupils in P3 and P6. We are set to have another successful year here at the school and nursery.

Drop off and Pick up

As we are still in a period of Covid restrictions, we have been asked to keep our staggered start and end times to reduce the amount of adults in and around our playground. Can I please remind you that you must still follow guidelines that state **masks must be worn** at drop off and pick up times, **adult must still physically distance** from other adults and adults must stay away from the school if you have any symptoms or are awaiting test results.

Our staggered times are as follows:

- P1 - P3 start at 8.45am with doors open at 8.40am
- P1 - P3 finish at 2.45pm.
- P4- P7 start at 9.00am with doors open at 8.55am
- P4-7 finish at 3.00pm
- Pupils should arrive at school as close to their start time as possible.

Can we please remind everyone that we are **only able to allow P1 parents into our playground**. All other parents should have an **arranged pick up point for the end of the day** that they agree with their child. Children should be reminded that if their adult is not at the agreed pick up point, they should return to the main office and alert a member of staff.

Attendance



Every minute at school is another chance for our pupils to "**Learn and Grow Together**" and so we place a lot of emphasis on good attendance and time keeping. Attendance is monitored very closely and I will often contact you to chat about attendance should there be a concern. We are now following an updated and refreshed Attendance policy from Inverclyde Council. Please see below for more information. If your child is going to be absent or is running late, please let us know as soon as possible preferably by **messaging us on 07860-004806** or **calling us on 715728**. If we do not hear from you before 9.30 we will contact you.

Parent leaflet Attendance Matters Aug 2021 (3)

Why is school so important?

Schools support our children and young people:

- To grow confidence and self esteem
- To experience success in their learning
- To understand responsibility
- To learn the benefits of contributing to school/community life
- To have fun and make friends
- To experience new things
- To gain qualifications

Did you know? Interesting Fact *

Unsettled friendship groups, emotional and behaviour difficulties, unsuccessful learning and lower employment opportunities can result from poor attendance.

* Included, engaged and involved part 1: promoting and managing school attendance 2019

Every Day Counts

Attendance percentages can be misleading. Consider the following:

%	Days missed equivalent to	Impact
100%	0	Excellent Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start
95%	9 days (1 week & 4 days)	Good Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start
90%	18 days (2 weeks & 4 days)	Poor Less chance of success. Makes it harder to progress.
85%	27 days (3 weeks & 2 days (Almost half a term))	Very Poor Serious implications
80%	36 days (4 weeks & 1 day (Half a term))	Unacceptable Serious implications on learning and progress. Unacceptable
75%	45 days (5 weeks Almost a whole term)	Unacceptable Serious implications on learning and progress. Unacceptable



We know your child can be off for a variety of reasons?

We understand that there will be times when your child can not attend school *

Your child may be off if:

- they are ill
- attending a medical appointment
- Going to a Children's Hearing/Care Review or other service provider, e.g Social work
- Religious observance/cultural issues
- Exceptional domestic circumstances
- Bereavement
- Wedding or funerals of those close to the family
- Arranged absence of Gypsy/traveller families
- Participation in activities agreed by the school
- Family holidays, only agreed in exceptional circumstances
- During an exclusion
- Lack of transport due to bad weather
- Covid isolation

*Inverclyde Attendance Policy

Support is available

If you are experiencing difficulties getting your child into school, talk to us! Your child may feel anxious, worried or just not want to go. We are here to help. Contact Mr Craig or Miss McGachy

<p>Other agencies that can help: Parentline Scotland At some time all parents find that parenting can be difficult or stressful. Parentline Scotland is the free, confidential, telephone helpline for anyone caring for a child in Scotland. You can call about any problem, however big or small. Phone: 0800 800 2222. Or live at: www.children1st.org.uk/parentline-scotland¹⁾</p>
<p>Childline Children and young people can get confidential help about any question, concern or worry. Phone: 0800 1111. Or live at: www.childline.org.uk²⁾</p>
<p>Enquire Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning and operates a helpline for parents, carers and practitioners. An interpreter can be arranged upon request. Telephone helpline Phone: 0845 223 2302. E-mail: info@enquire.org.uk Or live at: www.enquire.org.uk³⁾</p>

Knowing my child is safe!

We need to know your child is safe if they are not at school

What you need to do!

- Contact the office on the first day of absence by text message on 07860-004806 or by phone call on 01475 715728.
- Please do this as early as possible or by 9.30am at the latest.
- If your child has an upcoming appointment or you know they will be absent from school for a personal reason, give us as much notice as possible and show us a copy of any medical letters.

What the school needs to do if we don't hear from you by 9.30 am!

- ↓ Firstly a text will be sent to the main contact
- ↓ If no response is received to the text a phone call will be made to the main contact
- ↓ If there is no reply then we will contact your emergency numbers
- ↓ If we are still unclear as to the whereabouts of your child then we may choose to contact other agencies who may wish to make a home visit to check all is well and your child is safe.

Our priority in following all these steps is to ensure that your child is safe and well and are in line with Inverclyde's attendance & child protection guidelines.

Attendance Matters!



St John's Primary,
Port Glasgow

01475 715728
Absence contact/text number:
07860-004806

1 - [1] <http://www.children1st.org.uk/parentline-scotland> [2] <http://www.childline.org.uk/> [3] <http://www.enquire.org.uk/>

PE

We encourage a relaxed uniform on PE days that should consist of white polo shirt/t-shirt, bottle green jumper/cardigan, bottle green or dark joggers/leggings and suitable trainers. Children should not wear jewellery on PE days. PE days for the session are detailed below. If these days change, we will communicate this with you.

- P1a - Monday and Wednesday
- P1b - Tuesday and Thursday

- P2 - Tuesday and Friday
- P2/3 - Tuesday and Wednesday
- P3 - Tuesday and Thursday
- P4 - Monday and Thursday
- P4/5 - Monday and Thursday
- P5 - Monday and Wednesday
- P6 - Wednesday and Thursday
- P6/7 - Tuesday and Friday
- P7 - Thursday and Friday

Breakfast Club



We are delighted we are able to offer a limited breakfast club. Once restrictions ease and we are able to relax the limit on numbers, we will be able to offer more spaces. Spaces will be offered against a strict criteria and will be communicated to you before the first breakfast club on Tuesday. Full details were emailed out to all parents on Thursday 19 August. Please follow this link to see this information again. <https://bit.ly/3mk0GCm>

Books



St John's is a school that loves to read! We know the importance and benefits that having access to a school library brings. As our school roll continues to grow, we are needing more and more books to add to our class libraries. If you have any unwanted books that are in good condition, you can donate them to the school by placing them in a collection box in our main office.

Thank You



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We hope and pray for a great year of "Learning and growing together through faith, hard work and love to go safely on our way". Please follow this link to provide any feedback you may have on this newsletter <https://bit.ly/3D0i5FU>